

“Upgrade, Excellence, and the Presence of God”

By: Ken Callahan

I. Introduction

Philippians 3:12-14 (AMP); (emphasis mine)

¹²Not that I have now attained [this ideal], or have already been made perfect, but ***I press on*** to lay hold of (grasp) and make my own, that for which Christ Jesus (the Messiah) has laid hold of me and made me His own.

¹³I do not consider, brethren, that I have captured and made it my own [yet]; ***but one thing I do [it is my one aspiration]:*** forgetting what lies behind and ***straining forward to what lies ahead,***

¹⁴***I press on toward the goal to win*** the [supreme and heavenly] prize to which God in Christ Jesus is ***calling us upward.***

II. DCF Upgrade Proclamation

- A. Destiny Christian Fellowship, let this be our proclamation during this season of ***upgrade*** (this is the definition of “upgrade” converted into a proclamation of faith):
1. “God is taking us to a higher place and position; He is bringing us from a lower to a higher place. The Lord is causing us to be in a state of action; a state of commotion, excitement, and uprising. He has purposed to make us higher and advanced in value, influence, and social standing. God is causing us to come to a more complete and mature condition. He has graced us to reach a certain point that is not below or inferior. We are entering a state of being brought closer together. God is improving our quality, standards, and performance by incorporating new advances in us. He is exchanging what we’ve had for something of better quality. The Lord Himself is revising us, renewing us, and bringing us up to date. The Presence of the Lord is rejuvenating us and stirring us up!”
- B. During this season of ***upgrade***, we need to review every past prophetic word (both personal and corporate), looking for what God wants to fulfill or reignite in and through us individually and as a church!
1. 1 Timothy 1:18-19 (NIV) “...according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare.”

II. The Spirit of Excellence

- A. "That you may approve the things that are excellent" (Phil. 1:10)
 - B. "Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel." (1 Cor. 14:12)
 - C. "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us." (2 Cor. 4:7)
 - D. "For the sons of this age are shrewder and more prudent and wiser in [relation to] their own generation [to their own age and kind] than are the sons of light." Luke 16:8b (AMP)
 - E. "But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. ***Man looks at the outward appearance***, but the LORD looks at the heart.'" 1 Samuel 16:7 (NIV)
 - F. Excellence as used in scripture
 - 1. The words "excel", "excellency", "excellent", etc. are used a number of times in scripture having a wide variety of usage and definitions. Generally speaking, there are negative or positive usages of these words.
 - a. Negatively speaking, excellence may speak of arrogance, pride, competition, performance, and striving.
 - b. Positively speaking, excellence may speak of being majestic, glorious, pre-eminent, or to exceed or surpass.
- Note:** *The excellence that belongs to the Lord is the same spirit of excellence that He has established and is increasing in His people!*

III. The Visit of the Queen of Sheba to King Solomon

A. (1 Kings 10:1-13) She was overwhelmed when she both *saw* and *heard* the *excellence* of his kingdom.

B. Ten Areas of Excellence of King Solomon's Court as Observed by the Queen of Sheba

1. Excellence of the connection of the fame of Solomon with the Name of the Lord.
2. Excellence of the house that he had built.
3. Excellence of the food of his table.
4. Excellence of the seating of his officials.
5. Excellence of his attending servants.
6. Excellence of his servants' appearance in their robes.
7. Excellence of his cup bearers.
8. Excellence of his ascent by which he went up to the House of the Lord.
9. Excellence of the happiness of his officials and his servants.
10. Excellence of his wisdom.

IV. Conclusion: "A Greater One than Solomon is Here" (Mt. 12:42)

A. (Isaiah 60:1-5 NIV) "Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you."